Government to fund the networking component of the above project as a pilot project; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has initiated comprehensive treasury computerisation project covering all the Districts and Sub-Treasuries. All these 215 District Treasuries/Sub-Treasuries (31 and 184 respectively) are proposed to be connected to Network Management Centre at Bangalore through V-SAT under the project.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has received a proposal from Government of Karnataka for financial assistance of Rs. 47.4 crores for computerisation of their Treasuries. This proposal has been examined by DIT and keeping in view of the existing guidelines for supporting pilot projects in this area, it has advised Government of Karnataka to reframe the project proposal.

State Government, however, have been provided with financial assistance of Rs. 16 crores under the Eleventh Finance Commission Scheme for the upgradation of infrastructure of the various departments involved in fiscal administration (revenue earning departments, treasuries and accounts departments), being administered by Ministry of Finance.

National Informatics Centre (NIC), under DIT has also been providing technical support to Government of Karnataka, since 1992, on application software development, training and maintenance for computerisation of their treasuries.

KU Band and DTH

3817. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between the KU band and the DTH;

(b) whether any State in the country is using KU Band;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or porpose to take to bring more use of KU band in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) KU band is the nomenclature for representing the frequency band for about 11 Giga Hertz (GHz) to 18 Giga Hertz(GHz) of Radio Frequency Spectrum. DTH is an abbreviation which is commonly used for Direct To Home Broadcasting Service. KU band is permitted for DTH Service in India. Reception of KU band signal requires smaller dish antenna (45-60 centimeters diameter). Being digital transmission, DTH Service in KU band provides superior picture quality and sound clarity.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh State Government has been authorized to operate their satellite educational programmes in this band.

(d) Adequate provision of KU band payloads is being made in Indian Satellite System (INSAT). Doordarshan is planning to provide coverage to uncovered areas particularly, in hilly and sparsely populated areas in KU band. This band is already being used extensively by both public and private telecom service providers and other users for satellite and terrestrial applications throughout India.

Shortage of revenue and postal stamps

3818. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of revenue stamps and other postal stamps in the country, especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to meet the shortage;